

Message Text

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16

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 OPR-02 A-01 OMB-01

SAM-01 AID-05 EB-07 DHA-02 ORM-01 SCCT-01 SY-05 /094 W

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O R 210940Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3822

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0941

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI AO

SUBJECT: INVASION STORIES

CINCLANT AND CINCEUR FOR POLAD

1. AN FNLA SOURCE REPORTS THROUGH A LOCAL AMCIT BUSINESSMAN THAT AN FNLA INVASION FORCE OF 7,000 MEN, COMPOSED OF ROUGHLY TWO EQUAL COLUMNS, IS EXPECTED TO REACH LUANDA JULY 23 OR 24. ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE, THE TWO COLUMNS, WHICH ARE USING PARTIALLY DIFFERRING ROUTES, HAVE ALREADY PASSED TWO MPLA DEFENSIVE POSITIONS WITHOUT A FIGHT. THE FORCE IS SAID TO BE TRAVELLING ONLY BY NIGHT, TO INCLUDE ONE U.S. BUILT TANK AND COMMANDED BY TWO WHITE EX-PORTUGUESE ARMY OFFICERS. FNLA IS SUPPOSED TO BE CONSIDERING TWO ALTERNATE STRATEGIES FOR USE WHEN (AND IF) THEIR FORCES ARRIVE OUTSIDE THE CITY. ONE IS TO OCCUPY THE CITY CENTER, THE OTHER IS TO ATTACK MPLA IN THE SLUMS. SOME FNLA LEADERS ARE REPORTED TO FAVOR STOPPING THEIR FORCES ON THE NORTH EDGE OF THE

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CITY AND NEGOTIATING WITH MPLA AND THE PORTUGUESE. (THAT OPTION

COULD BE EXPANDED INTO A STARVE-OUT STRATEGY.)

2. A WHITE UNITA SUPPORTER CLAIMS THAT A BUSINESS ASSOCIATE PERSONALLY SAW FNLA PRESIDENT HOLDEN ROBERTO ON JULY 17 IN AMBRIZ.

3. MPLA IS SAID TO HAVE BROUGHT 500-1000 ADDITIONAL TROOPS TO LUANDA ALTHOUGH THIS REPORT IS NOT CONFIRMED NOR IS THE ORIGIN KNOWN.

4. LUANDA PRESS OF JULY 21 CARRIES A STATEMENT FROM FNLA MINISTER OF INTERIOR KABWNGU SAYING ROBERTO WILL "SHORTLY" BE IN LUANDA TO PRESIDE OVER A JOINT MEETING OF FNLA'S POLITICAL BUREAU AND ELNA GENERAL STAFF. KABANGU WAS FURIOUSLY SPREADING THIS STORY SINCE AT LEAST EARLY ON JULY 19 TO AN INCREDULOUS PRESS CORPS. AT ONE POINT HE SAID ROBERTO COULD BE IN LUANDA AS EARLY AS 1500 JULY 19.

5. MPLA SPORADICALLY SHELLLED THE AREA AROUND AND TO THE NORTH OF FNLA'S FORT DURING JULY 19 AND 20. HEAVY FIRING BROKE OUT AT 1200 HOURS JULY 20. DIRECT OBSERVATION FROM THE BAY CONFIRMS THAT MPLA IS NOT FIRING DIRECTLY INTO THE FORT ITSELF. PORTUGUESE ELEMENTS MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE SHOOTING, BUT WE HAVE NO DETAILS AS YET.

6. ALTHOUGH FNLA POINTS ON THE "ISLAND" OPPOSITE THE CITY HAVE FALLEN, THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY CONTINUES TO SEVERELY RESTRICT ACCESS TO THE AREA.

7. REFUGEES. TWO ADDITIONAL FREIGHTERS WERE LOADING REFUGEES JULY 20, ONE IN THE COMMERCIAL PORT, AND ONE AT THE NAVAL BASE ON THE ISLAND. THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES CAMPED ON THE PALACE GROUNDS IS GREATLY REDUCED. SWISS AIR CHARTERS HAVE EVACUATED (FROM NOVA LISBOA AIRPORT) WHITE EMPLOYEES OF THE BENGUELA RAILROAD BUT HAVE NOT BEGUN REGULAR RUNS FROM LUANDA TO LISBON.

8. THERE IS AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT MPLA HAS TAKEN HENRIQUE DE CARVALHO IN EASTERN ANGOLA.
KILLORAN

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